

THE MYSTERIOUS BOX.' 2f>S

1812, a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, with Prussia., by virtue of which the two contracting powers mutually guaranteed the integrity of their own possessions, and the European possessions of the Ottoman Porto, because, that power was then at war with Russia. A similar treaty was concluded about the beginning of March with Austria, and about the end of the same month Napoleon renewed the capitulation of France and Switzerland. At length, in the month of April, there came to light an evident proof of the success which had attended M. Czernischeff's intrigues in Paris. It was ascertained that a clerk in the War Office, named Michel, had communicated to him the situation of the French forces in Germany. Michel was condemned to death, for the time was gone by when Bonaparte, confident in his genius- and good fortune, could communicate his plans to the spy of General Melas.

In March, 1812, when I saw that the approaching war would necessarily take Napoleon from France, weary of th« persecutions and even threats by which I was every day assailed, I addressed to the Emperor a memorial explaining my conduct and showing the folly and wickedness of my accusers. Among them was a certain Ogier de la Sausaayo, who had sent a report to the Emperor, in which the principal charge was, that I had carried off a box containing important papore belonging to the First Consul The accusation of Ogier do la Saussaye terminated thus : *"I arid to my report the interrogatories of MM. Westphalen, Os?/, Ghapwm Kouge, Auks^her^ Thierry, and Gumprecht-Mares. The emdmm of the latter bears principally on a certain mystGrioit* box, a teorflt upon which it is impossible to throw any light, but the reality of which we are bound to believe."* These are his wo rein. The affair of the mysterious box has betm already explained. I have already informed the reader that I put my papers into a box, which I buried lest it should bo fitolon from me.¹ But

² This burial of the box has been mentioned by ftonrrrtannft at the time of his disgrace in 1802. What possible right an ©x-8<Kjrt>tifry had to kē<*n wUo-graph documents, and why he should be so anxiotiH to oonocnln them if they were his own property, and contained nothing that could foft twed Againstt him to substantiate the charges for which he wns dtarraoed, are point* he does not allude to. His indignant denial of Ogier* ttaCemtmt is good.